

# **DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

## **DISTRICT I**

### **Revised**

April 7, 2003

7:00 p.m.

*Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19<sup>th</sup>, Wichita, Kansas 67214*

#### **Members Present**

Council Member Brewer  
Rickie Coleman  
Treatha Brown Foster  
Lois Tully-Gerber  
Lori Lawrence  
Sharon Meyers  
Debby Moore  
Steve Roberts\*  
Celina Porter Robinson  
James Thompson

#### **Members Absent**

Joann Hartig\*  
Kenneth Hemmen  
Willard Walker  
Ken Woodard

#### **Guest List**

Carl Ligon, 1736 NE Parkway  
Kaelyn Seymour, 7750 E. 32nds #404  
Saretta Jones, 2621 N. Cameron  
Edward Jones, 1237 Pennsylvania  
Paula Givens, 1228 N. Mathewson  
Theola Cooper, 1618 New York  
Linda Estep, 2523 N. Roosevelt Ct.  
Andrea Estep, 2523 N. Roosevelt Ct.  
Gertrude Jamison, 2402 N. Minnesota

#### **Staff Present**

Chief Norman Williams, WPD  
Officer Jamie Cavitt, Patrol South  
Officer Gary Morris, Patrol North  
Virdena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant

\*Denotes District Advisory Board Alternates

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **Call to Order**

**Council Member Brewer** called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve DAB I minutes **Brown-Foster (Thompson)**. Motion carried (8-0).

### **Approval of Agenda**

**Thompson (Lawrence)** made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Chief Norman Williams to the Public Agenda. Motion carried (8-0).

## **Public Agenda**

### **1. Remarks by Chief Norman Williams**

**Chief Norman Williams** thanked the DAB members for their support through the years. He commented that the men and women of the Wichita Police Department also appreciate the support and the strong partnerships that many have fostered within the community. Williams added that as a result of those partnerships, crime has been reduced greatly in the last four to five years and that those positive relationships have been good for the community.

Chief Williams commended the DAB members for the commitment that they have made to the community, which has allowed them and the police department to co-produce neighborhood safety. He thanked them for their support and dedication to the community, the neighborhoods, and the City.

**Council member Brewer** thanked Chief Williams for his service and stated that he appreciates his support of the DAB members and the District 1 community.

## **2. Off-agenda items**

**No items submitted.**

### **Staff Reports**

#### **3. Police Report**

**Officer Lamar Parker** reported the following: 1) the Community Police extended their hours during Spring Break to reduce youth crime; 2) 12 clubs were checked in the north sector – they checked licenses, health code violations, etc.; 3) due to the recent incident at the Mecca Club, the management/security there was given safety tips and contact information is on file for each parent should their young person do wrong; and 4) the kickoff for Weed & Seed was preceded with a press conference, which revealed that Wichita has been reallocated for funding for another five years.

*(Officer Parker's response in italics)*

**Brown Foster** asked if the security guards from the Mecca Club train with WPD? *They missed the first session, but will be invited to other trainings.* **Coleman** complimented Officer Parker and Officer Morris, both are doing a great job. **Porter Robinson** stated that Riley Williams presented at the District 1 Coalition Breakfast and stated that the boundaries for Weed & Seed extend to Old Manor. **Chief Williams** replied that the Weed & Seed boundaries are Central to 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Oliver to Washington.

**The board received & filed the report.**

### **Planning Agenda**

#### **4. McAdams Neighborhood Revitalization Plan**

**Dave Barber, MAPD staff** presented the proposal for the McAdams Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. He stated that the proposal was the result of 2 ½ years of work by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Coalition and subsequently the Community Development Committee that was developed out of the coalition.

Mr. Barber introduced Edward and Saretta Jones and James Arbertha as key players in this process and began to explain the steps taken since the initial survey of dilapidated houses in January 2001. In the spring of 2002, a Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan was developed. Based on that data, a steering committee developed a vision and mission statement. It was in August 2002 that the information was taken back to the neighborhood and six Neighborhood Planning Issues were the outcome (see page 3 of the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan). A total of 330 people attended three neighborhood meetings since January 2002.

The committee met with the City and County officials and presented the information to the Metropolitan Area Planning Department. Several areas were presented: a) neighborhood playground; b) revitalization of Phyllis Wheatley, Dunbar, and other historic sites; and c) new housing and community development. Approximately \$1,000,000.00 in capital improvement is needed and this area is eligible for CDBG funding.

Mrs. Saretta Jones and Mr. James Arbertha both spoke on the issue. Both support the project and have worked diligently with the neighborhood residents to revitalize the area.

**Debby Moore** commented that previously CPO Council Member Martin, who died a few years ago, would be happy with what is being done. **Treatha Brown Foster** stated that this is great for the neighborhood and the city and everyone is to be commended for all their hard work.

**Councilman Brewer** reiterated that although he was not born in the early era of McAdams, he is proud of the rich heritage of that neighborhood. Most African Americans resided in that area, which was a place for socialization and “good ole times.” Mr. Brewer encouraged everyone to visit the neighborhood and view the new homes built by Mennonite Housing and Power CDC.

**Moore (Porter Robinson)** moved to recommend support of the McAdams Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. Motion passed 8-0.

### **Unfinished Business**

No items submitted

### **New Business**

No items submitted

### **Board Agenda**

#### **5. Youth on Boards**

**Virdena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant** presented information about incorporating youth on the District Advisory Board as presented by the Wichita’s Promise Youth Council. The idea of incorporating youth on the DABs is to bring a “fresh perspective” from the younger generation as well as provide an education opportunity on city government. Ms. Gilkey informed the board members that the youth cannot vote and would be considered at-large members.

**Council Member Brewer** thanked the members for stepping up and resubmitting their resumes. He commended the members for the outstanding job they have done in their neighborhood, community, and as DAB members who bring issues and concerns from the citizens to the board meetings. Brewer added that he has received multiple resumes from youth who are interested in being seated as a DAB 1 member.

**Porter Robinson (Thompson)** moved to approve two youth on District 1 Advisory Board. Motion carried 8-0.

#### **6. McAdams Apartment Rental Storage Units**

**Councilman Brewer** presented information to the board concerning a proposal to build storage units in the area of 17<sup>th</sup> Street & I-35, 18<sup>th</sup> Street & Hydraulic. He reported that the new owners want to build 150 to 200 storage units to accommodate the tenants and needs the sentiment of the board before proceeding further. MAPC is voicing that this is not a good idea and would induce crime. Brewer asked the DAB members to go by the property and give their opinion at the next meeting. **Officer Johnny Parker** commented that the new owners are a good company and have refurbished all of the units, which look 110% better. The new owner is easy to work with and is making that area a better neighborhood. **John Thompson** asked if the units would receive 24-hour/7 day a week security? **Councilman Brewer** responded that it is his understanding that they will have 24-hour security. **Officer Parker** added that the onsite management is the security.

**Recommendation:** The board deferred comment until the next meeting.

## **7. Updates, Issues, and Reports**

- **Steve Roberts** reported that the lot at 21<sup>st</sup> & Woodlawn now has half dozen cars for sale on the lot. Also, two abandoned vehicles are there as well.
- **Lois Tully-Gerber** reported on the Firework Ordinance Committee meetings. Gerber commented that the first meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> was more of a “get acquainted” session where the members decided to meet in the evenings as opposed to the daytime. City staff was there to inform the committee of their expectations and responsibilities. The second meeting, April 8<sup>th</sup>, dealt with public safety, enforcement, and community input and recommendations. The committee reviewed surveys from other cities such as Denver, Omaha, Oklahoma and Topeka to see how they addressed fireworks. Ernie Garcia facilitated this meeting.

Lastly, the committee will invite smaller outlying cities to the meetings to get their input. Fireworks are a huge fundraiser for these cities. Gerber stated that she would provide a written report at the next DAB meeting.

**The board received and filed.**

## **General Comments/Announcements**

- District I Coalition Meeting will be May 3, 2003, at Cisro's Restaurant, 21<sup>st</sup> & Oliver. **Councilman Brewer** commented that the coalition voted to go to Cisro's for the May meeting. This restaurant opened up with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony last Thursday and the food was excellent.
- Next meeting of DAB I will be May 5, 2003. **Councilman Brewer** stated that the new DAB would select a committee for the new awards program that will be implemented at upcoming meetings.
- Curtis McClinton, who is the oldest living Senator, will celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- **Treatha Brown Foster** announced that Northeast Millair NA would host their monthly meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m. at Patrol North. The guest speaker is District Attorney Nola Foulston. All questions must be submitted before hand.
- **James Thompson** announced the WIN Neighborhood University, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Sedgwick County Extension.
- **Jesse Little**, Brotherhood Presbyterian Church, introduced himself and stated that he has lived in Wichita for one year and wants to be actively involved in his community. The board would be seeing him periodically.
- **Lori Lawrence** reported that Plastic Recycling of Kansas would have a booth at the Neighborhood University and is will sell their inventory. They are very created and have really nice stuff for sale that they make out of plastic. Also, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Plastics has 200,000 pounds of plastic with nowhere to take it. **Tully-Gerber** remarked that if there is no market, no one buys the product. She added that the plastic benches are a great opportunity for neighborhood associations and it is wicked that we do not support recycling efforts.
- **Kaeyln Seymour** reported that her final project would be on display at the Wichita Boathouse on May 6<sup>th</sup>. She thanked everyone for his or her support and said, “It has been fun working with you guys”.

Being no further business, **Brown Foster (Porter Robinson)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Virdena Gilkey  
Neighborhood Assistant